Biblical Philematology

Kissing in the Bible

Lionel Hartley

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Biblical Philematology (Kissing in the Bible)
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Part 1: Kissing in Society

Chapter 1: What is a Kiss

V P I Skipper described a kiss this way, "A peculiar proposition. Of no use to one, yet absolute bliss to two. The small boy gets it for nothing, the young man has to vie for it, and the old man has to buy it. The baby's right, the lover's privilege, and the hypocrite's mask. To a young girl, faith; to a married woman, hope; and to an old maid, charity."

Philematology is the science of kissing and there are as many types of kisses as there are osculators (kissers).

Our English word kiss and the various forms found in European languages comes from the Old English word '*cyssan*' meaning to touch with the lips. The Latin word for kiss is *osculari* meaning, literally, a little mouth.

The dictionary says that a kiss is "a salute made by touching with the lips pressed closely together and suddenly parting them."

From this it is quite obvious that, although a dictionary compiler may know something about words, he or she knows nothing about kissing.

The same with the medical profession. Dr. Henry Gibbons described a kiss as the anatomical juxtaposition of two rbicularis oris muscles in a state of contraction.

If we are to get the real meaning of the word kiss, instead of going to those who compile dictionaries, we should go to the poets who still have the hot blood of youth coursing in their veins.

For, instance, King Solomon in the Song of Songs 1:2 has the bride saying, “Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for [his] love is better than wine”.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge called a kiss, “Nectar breathing.”

Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote that “Soul meets soul on lovers’ lips.”

William Shakespeare says that a kiss is a “Seal of love”.

The Roman poet Martial must have had ample

opportunity to do research work on the subject, because he says that a kiss was "The fragrance of balsam extracted from aromatic trees; the rise odour yielded by the teeming saffron; the perfume of fruits mellowing in their winter buds; the flowery meadows in the summer; amber warmed by the hand of a girl; a bouquet of flowers that attracts the bees."

A number of years ago I overheard a television receiver in another room with the person (presumably on the screen) saying, "Kissing is just a matter of putting your lips to the sweet end of sixty-six feet of intestines".

An anonymous writer compiled a list of various professors' definitions when asked, "What is a kiss?"

A professor of accountancy: a kiss is a credit because it is profitable when returned.

A professor of algebra: a kiss is two divided by nothing.

A professor of chemistry: a kiss is the reaction of the interaction between two hearts.

A professor of computer science: a kiss is a few bits of love compiled into a byte.

A professor of dentistry: a kiss is infectious and antiseptic. (In 1968 Hal David wrote the lyrics to a

Broadway musical song with these words: “What do you get when you kiss a girl? You get enough germs to catch pneumonia … I’ll never fall in love again”.)

A professor of economics: a kiss is that thing for which the demand is higher than the supply.

A professor of engineering: a kiss is the starter to get our engines going.

A professor of English: a kiss is a noun that is used as a conjunction; it is more common than proper; it is spoken in the plural and it is applicable to all.

A professor of geometry: a kiss is the shortest distance between two straight lines.

A professor of philosophy: a kiss is the persecution for the child, ecstasy for the youth and homage for the old.

A professor of physics: a kiss is the contraction of mouth due to the expansion of the heart.

A professor of physiology: a kiss is the juxtaposition of two orbicularis oris muscles in the state of contraction.

A professor of sociology (the author of this book): A kiss is nature’s way of getting two people so close together they cannot see each other’s faults.

A professor of statistics: a kiss is an event whose probability depends on the vital statistics of 36-24-36.

A professor of zoology: a kiss is the interchange of unisexual salivary bacteria.

Steven Poole in the Christian Reader magazine wrote, “A Japanese couple, recent arrivals in the [United] States, were getting married.

Despite their limited exposure to western customs, the American-style wedding went well.

But when the minister invited the couple to kiss, nothing happened.

Surprised, the minister turned to the bride and said, ‘How about a little kiss?’

Not wanting to offend, she shyly leaned forward and kissed him!”

A Sunday School teacher asked her class what they were thankful for.

One little boy said, “My glasses.”

“Why are you thankful for your glasses?” the teacher asked. (She knew most boys hated wearing

glasses.)

"Because they keep the boys from fighting me and the girls from kissing me," the boy replied.

An honest seven-year-old, admitted calmly to her parents, that Billy Brown had kissed her after class.

"How did that happen?" gasped her mother,

"It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."

The composer and lyricist Con. Conrad in 1921 wrote a song with these lyrics, "Ma! he's making eyes at me! …

Ma! he's kissing me!"

Some people have (or suffer from) basorexia, which is a strong desire to kiss from the Greek basi (kiss) and rexia (hunger).

Edmund Vance Cooke wrote,

"Kisses kept are wasted;

Love is to be tasted.

There are some you love, I know;

Be not loathe to tell them so.

Lips go dry and eyes grow wet

Waiting to be warmly met.

Keep them not in waiting yet;

Kisses kept are wasted.”

R L Russell suggested that high heels were invented by a woman who got tired of her boyfriend kissing her on the forehead.

Chapter 2: Family Kisses

There is the lover's kiss:

An author in 'The Courier-Journal' (Louisville, Kentucky) 2 July 1904 made this observation: "There was an old English rhyme popular about 1750 that went: An apple-pie without some cheese is like a kiss without a squeeze."

Aun author from a previous century, James White said, "a kiss without a beard is like soup without salt".

A writer only known as Chiefton wrote, "Soft and passionate kisses are [only] bestowed upon a lovely woman who deserves the best."

Melvin Newland tells a story about a rather legalistic seminary student who wanted to have a scriptural basis for everything he did.

He felt he was on solid ground if he could quote the Bible, book, chapter and verse to okay his actions.

He did all right with that until he began to fall in

love with a beautiful co-ed. He wanted very much to kiss her, but he just couldn't find a scripture to okay it.

So, true to his conscience, he would simply walk her to the dormitory each night, look at her longingly, and then say "Good night."

This went on for several weeks, and all the time he was searching the Bible, trying to find some scripture to approve of kissing her good night.

But he couldn't find one, until finally he came across that passage in Romans that says, "Greet each other with a holy kiss" (Romans 16:16).

He thought, "At last, I have scriptural authority for kissing her good night."

But to be sure, he went to his hermeneutics professor to check it out. After talking with the professor, he realized that the passage dealt more with a church setting than with a dating situation. So once again he simply didn't have a passage of scripture to approve of kissing his girl good night.

That evening he walked her to the dormitory and once again started to bid her "good night." But as he did, she grabbed him, pulled him toward her, and planted

a 10-second kiss right on his lips.

At the end of the kiss, the seminary student gasped for air, and stammered, “Bible verse, Bible verse.”

The girl grabbed him a second time, and just before kissing him again, said, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Mothers have a healing kiss:

When we were children and had a hurt we ran to Mother to have her rub it. After a time the pain ceased, which increased our faith in Mother’s rubbing.

Sometimes Mother would kiss the hurt place if it was conveniently located. This caused us to believe that a mother’s kiss can cure anything from a broken limb to a broken heart.

One day my own mother insisted to one of my younger sisters that, (quote), “‘Kissing it better’ is the most effective medicine known to medical science”.

Arthur E. Hertzler MD in his autobiography, *“The Horse and Buggy Doctor”* (Harper & Brothers, New York, 1938, p55) wrote about kissing a hurt to

make it better, “Here is a grand possibility for the development of another cult, or has it already been included in the repertoire of some of those we now have? Far be it from me to cast any insinuations; but it is generally recognised that the handsomer the man the better quack he makes, which suggests that a possible osculatory contact may lurk in the subconscious background.”

“That quacks are usually prepossessing and handsome is universally recognised and not a product of my own limited observations. Someone may counter that the only reason that most of us are regular doctors is that we are too unattractive to be quacks.”

Mothers have an encouraging kiss:

The renowned Painter Benjamin West tells how he loved to paint as a youngster. When his mother left, he would pull out the oils and try to paint.

One day he pulled out all the paints and made quite a mess. He hoped to get it all cleaned up before his mother came back.

But she came and discovered the mess. West said what she did next completely surprised him. She picked

up his painting and said, “My, what a beautiful painting of your sister.”

She gave him a kiss on the cheek and walked away. With that kiss, West says, he became a painter.

Anne Taylor wrote,

“Who fed me from her gentle breast

And hushed me in her arms to rest,

And on my cheek sweet kisses prest?

My Mother.”

Mothers have a sacrificial kiss:

William Gladstone, in announcing the death of Princess Alice to the House of Commons, told a touching story.

The little daughter of the Princess was seriously ill with diphtheria.

The doctors told the princess not to kiss her little daughter and endanger her life by breathing the child’s breath.

Once when the child was struggling to breathe, the mother, forgetting herself entirely, took the little

one into her arms to keep her from choking to death.

Rasping and struggling for her life, the child said, "Momma, kiss me!"

Without thinking of herself the mother tenderly kissed her daughter.

She got diphtheria and some days thereafter she passed away and the daughter survived.

Mothers have a commissioning kiss:

J Wilbur Chapman tells us that there trudged along a Scottish highway years ago a little, old-fashioned mother.

By her side was her boy. The boy was going out into the world. At last the mother stopped. She could go no farther.

"Robert," she said, "promise me something?"

"What," asked the boy? "Promise me something?" said the mother again.

The boy was as Scottish as his mother, and he said: "You will have to tell me before I will promise."

She said: “Robert, it is something you can easily do. Promise your mother?”

He looked into her face and said: “Very well, mother, I will do anything you wish.”

She clasped her hands behind his head and pulled his face down close to hers, and said: “Robert, you are going out into a wicked world. Begin every day with God. Close every day with God.”

Then she kissed him, and the hugely successful evangelist Robert Moffat says that that kiss made him a missionary.

Mothers have a disciplining kiss:

Pearl S. Buck wrote, “Some mothers are kissing mothers and some are scolding mothers, but it is love just the same, and most mothers kiss and scold together”.

Adabella Radici said, “There’s nothing like a mama-hug”.

Then there’s the kiss from a father

Jeannette Clift George in ““Belonging and Becoming” wrote, ‘On a short flight from Tucson to

Phoenix, as I got on, I noticed a young woman with her baby.

They were both dressed in white pinafores. The mother was smiling, and the little baby was saying "Dada, Dada." And the little baby was darling. She wore a little pink bow where there would probably be hair pretty soon, and it was just darling.

And they sat down opposite me. Every time anybody went by, the baby would say, "Dada, Dada."

The young mother said they were going home, and Daddy was waiting for them.

I think they had been gone overnight — it was a long, long time like that!

Everybody was so happy, and we all enjoyed the little baby.

The mother had a little Thermos [flask] with orange juice in it. She kept feeding the baby, a little fruit and then a little juice.

It was a rough flight. Every time the baby cried the mother fed her a little bit more orange juice and a little more fruit.

I don't know how to get out of this story without telling you the truth.

The flight was very turbulent. (The flight was so rough that the attendants had to stay seated.)

All of the fruit that had gone down came up. I think more came up than had gone down; I think there was more up than there was baby, and it was startling; the carpet was not in good condition. It was a mess.

Those of us on the opposite side of the aisle were not in good condition at all.

We kept trying to tell the young mother it was just fine.

We were handing her tissues and things. (Most of us have been babies.) It was a very loving time, but a mess.

The baby was crying, and she looked awful. We couldn't cry, but we looked awful. The mother was so sorry about it.

We landed. The minute we landed, baby was fine: "Dada, Dada." The rest of us were just awful.

We began to get off the plane, and we all moved very carefully.

I had on a suit, and I was trying to decide whether to burn it or just cut off the sleeve.

Have you ever tried to get away from something really unpleasant and it was you? Well that's the way we were. It was really bad.

I looked out of the plane, and there waiting was the young man who had to be Daddy: white slacks, white shirt, white flowers, and a little green paper.

I thought, I know what's going to happen. He's going to run to that baby who now looks awful — I mean the hair and the pinafore were dreadful. He's going to run to that baby, get one look, and keep on running, saying, "Not my kid!"

As he ran to the young mother, I wouldn't say she threw the baby at him, but she did kind of leave quickly to go get cleaned up.

He picked up that baby, and I watched him as he hugged that baby and kissed that baby and stroked that baby's hair.

He said, “Daddy’s baby’s come home. Daddy’s baby’s come home.”

I watched them all the way to the luggage claim area.

He never stopped kissing that baby. He never stopped welcoming that baby back home.

I thought, Where did I ever get the idea that my Father God is less loving than a young daddy in white slacks and white shirt with white flowers and a green paper.’

We have the kiss of a grandparent:

Genesis 31:55: “Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then he left and returned home.”

Trying to explain wrinkles, Ronald Thurman wrote, “Wrinkles are contagious. You catch them from your grandmother when you’re a kid. Every kid gets kissed by his or her grandmother, and that’s when they get infected.

The disease takes about thirty or forty years to show any symptoms. And there you have it.”

A pretty young woman went into the department store for some dress material and was served by a cocky young man.

When she asked how much it was, he replied "A kiss per metre", winking at her slyly.

"Okay then, I'll have five metres."

The man cut, wrapped the material and handed it her and said, "The will be five kisses, please."

The young woman pointed to the old man beside her... "Grandad's paying," she said as she walked away.

There's the kiss that you give your mother or your father:

In Genesis 27 we have Jacob coming to his father, pretending to be his brother Esau. Verses 26 & 27: 'Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me." So he went to him and kissed him.'

The story goes that some time ago, a man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, “This is for you, Daddy.”

He was embarrassed by his earlier over-reaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty.

He yelled at her, “Don’t you know that when you give someone a present, there’s supposed to be something inside it?”

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, “Oh, Daddy, it is not empty. I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy.”

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness.

It is told that the man kept that gold box by his bed for years and whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

And there’s the kiss you give or maybe gave your spouse...

I have been blissfully and securely married to

Rosemary for over forty years and our honeymoon still isn't over.

The first time that I ever kissed Rosemary was on our wedding day, in the church, at the invitation of the minister as he pronounced us man and wife.

In fact, a week before the wedding when I had both our families at my house having a Christmas meal together — getting to know each other — I overheard my mother tell my future mother-in-law, "The only female that Lionel has ever kissed is either a blood relative or on four legs. (I presume she was referring to the family cat.)

A kiss is an expression of love and affection. Tragically, the Hollywood and Bollywood culture has reduced it to a tawdry act of eroticism.

In 1863 lyricist George Cooper wrote, "Oh how gaily glide the hours, kissing in the dark."

Audrey Faith McGraw (aka Faith Hill) sang of a kiss with these lyrics: "It' s the way you love me; it's a feeling like this: it's centrifugal motion, it's perpetual bliss".

Author Renae Nicks wrote, "Some people like

to kiss. Some people think kissing is one of those things you do on the way to other activities."

The Kiss of a Friend:

Theologian John Stott writes, "Here is a young man who is in love. He has a girlfriend who has captured his heart.

As a result he carries a photograph of his beloved in his wallet because it reminds him of her when she is far away.

Sometimes, when nobody is looking, he might even take the photograph out and give it a surreptitious kiss.

But kissing the photograph is a poor substitute for the real thing."

Ian Walker in *"The Sweetheart Book, Fact Fun and Fantasy for Sweethearts of All Ages"* (Paperjacks Ltd, NY, 1988, p59) wrote, 'Horatio Nelson After being mortally wounded at the Battle of Trafalgar, he is alleged to have called his friend and fellow seaman Thomas Hardy and said, "Take care of poor Lady [Emma] Hamilton" — And then, "Kiss me, Hardy."

Other versions, however, suggest that Nelson actually said, “Kismet, Hardy” — Kismet being a Turkish word for destiny.

The official version of his last words, of course, very sensibly reflects neither of these utterances. He supposedly said, “Now I am satisfied. Thank God I have done my duty.”‘

The Kiss of Nature:

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) wrote,

“See the mountains kiss high heaven,
And the waves-clasp one another.
No sister flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother.
And the sunlight clasps the earth,
And the moonbeams kiss the sea;
What are all these kissings worth
If thou kiss not me?”

Finally, the Kiss of Death:

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) wrote, “His maker kissed his soul away, and laid his flesh to rest.”

Part 2: Kissing in the Bible

There are 45 references to kissing in the Bible (See the concordance in Appendix 3).

What can we learn by studying 'Bible kisses'?

Five times in the New Testament, believers are commanded to kiss. (Romans 16:16, "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."; 1 Corinthians 16:20, "All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss."; 2 Corinthians 13:12, "Greet one another with an holy kiss."; 1 Thessalonians 5:26, "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss."; and 1 Peter 5:14, "Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity …").

As we look at some examples we will find some truths and principles worth keeping.

Ninety-three percent of kissing in the Bible happens outside of marriage, twenty percent of kissing in the Bible happens between a man and a woman and seventy-three percent of kissing in the Bible happens between two men.

Chapter 3: The Figurative Kiss of God's Attributes

Here we have our first example, the figurative kiss of God's attributes (Psalm 85:10, "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other").

Consider how difficult it is to get Mercy and Truth together. Truth is absolute holiness without error or hypocrisy. Mercy is forgiving error and hypocrisy.

The same can be said for Righteousness and Peace. Sinful man finds righteousness frustrating, yet he cannot have true peace without it.

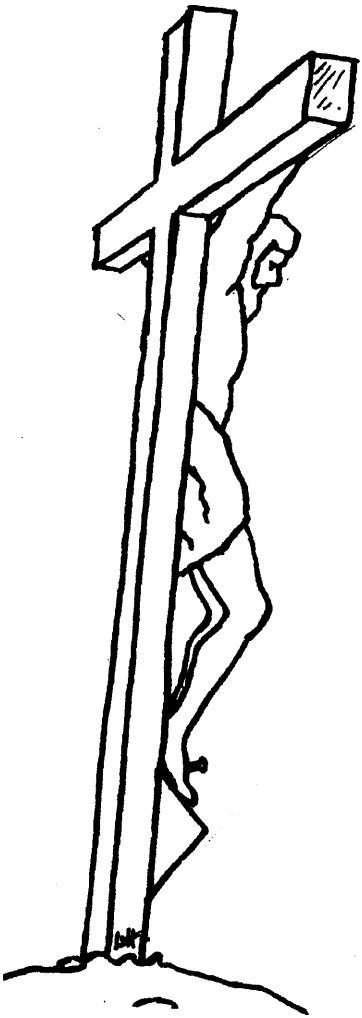
Yet our verse says that these seeming opposites have met together.

They have kissed each other. How can this happen? Only in Christ can it happen (John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ").

Christ joined God's holy righteousness and His

overwhelming love.

As God is both righteous and merciful at the same time, both sides of God's attributes were brought in harmony through the salvation Christ brought on the cross.



Chapter 4: The Faithful Kiss of Salvation

Let's look at another kiss, the faithful kiss of salvation.

Luke 7:37-38, "And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment."

Simon the Pharisee was upset by this woman's flagrant display. The Greek word for kiss here is kataphileo, meaning to kiss earnestly. Jesus used this as an opportunity to teach Simon about forgiveness. She had taken it upon herself to honour Jesus.

In verse 45 Jesus said to Simon, "Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss [me]".

This was symbolic of the kiss that accompanied an anointing on Old Testament times, for example 1 Samuel 10:1, "Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and

poured it upon [Saul's] head, and kissed him".

When we receive God's salvation through God's Son, there is a difference made in our heart.

We then look for ways to honour Christ with our life.

Each of our attempts to honour Him are like kisses to Him. (Psalm 2:11,12, "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son ... . Blessed are all they that put their trust in him").

I remember when my daughter Norreen was about nine or ten years old and she thought she was too big to share a goodnight kiss with Daddy anymore.

As Christians, I would hope that we never grow up so much that we quit showing our affection for our Lord. Have you kissed the Saviour lately?

(See Chapter 13 on page 6565

Chapter 5: The Family Kiss of the Brethren

Romans 16 introduces our third kiss, the family kiss of the brethren (Romans 16:16, "Salute one another with an holy kiss").

In several places, both Paul and Peter admonish the believer to greet one another with a kiss (1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:26 and 1 Peter 5:14).

The word for kiss in these verses is the word *phileo* meaning affectionate love, a more specific love than *agapao*. This "holy kiss" would be the equivalent of a heartfelt handshake or a hug. But what is behind this exhortation of Paul to kiss one another? This was a sign of true affection and blessing to one another. There are a number of times in scripture that we are commanded to "love one another." This holy kiss was the result of and a demonstration of God-inspired love.

The Song of Solomon 1:2 reads, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth…" Even though our social norms may tell us that such mouth-to-mouth

kissing of others in church is a no-no, the demand that we love one another is never out of style.

There is a story about a man who was walking down the street.

He passed a second-hand bookstore, and in the window he saw a book with the title, ‘How to Hug.’

He was taken by the title and, wondering how to demonstrate a holy kiss, went in to buy the book.

To his chagrin, he discovered that it was the seventh volume of an encyclopaedia set that covered the subjects ‘how’ to ‘hug.’

The theologian William Barclay wrote, “More people have been brought into the church by the kindness of real Christian love than by all the theological arguments in the world, and more people have been driven from the church by the hardness and ugliness of so-called Christianity than by all the doubts in the world.”

Chapter 6: The Farewell Kiss of Separation

In Acts 20:36-38 Scripture tells of our fourth kiss, the farewell kiss of separation – (Acts 20:36-38, "And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him, Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship").

The Christians in Ephesus obviously loved Paul tremendously. This moment of saying goodbye brought incredible sorrow to them.

The context of this passage is that they fell on his neck and kissed him goodbye repeatedly.

A bereaved Naomi kissed her daughters-in-law good-bye as she left to return to her own country. (Ruth 1:8, 9, "And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept").

And Orpah returned the kiss to Naomi (Ruth 1:14, "And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her").

Whenever I have received an email letter from a colleague in Russia he or she has customarily signed it with a Russian word meaning "I kiss".

Sometimes we have to say goodbye, don't we? The son or daughter that heads off to college for the first time. Or, perhaps off to serve our country in a foreign land.

Maybe it's a missionary fulfilling his or her Godly calling by leaving home and travelling to a far away land. It could be a pastor being called to lead another church.

Sometimes we are saying goodbye alongside the coffin of a loved one. That goodbye kiss is one we remember for a long time.

1 Kings 19: 20 says, "Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother good-by,' he said, 'and then I will come with you.'"

Chapter 7: The Foolish Kiss of Idolatry

Hosea 13:2, our fifth kiss, tells of the foolish kiss of idolatry – (Hosea 13:2-4, "And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves. Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney. Yet I am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me").

In Hosea's time the people had become so consumed with idols they would wear little idols around there neck or have idols situated in various places in the city.

The custom was that the people would kiss the idol to show reverence and honour to them.

Hosea was just pointing out the foolishness of it all. We wouldn't even consider bowing our knee to

kiss an idol.

Or would we? Idolatry isn't dead. It just looks different. We have our sports gods, money gods, entertainment gods, etc. It shouldn't be so with the believer.

(See also the reference to Job in Chapter 9 on page 49)

Chapter 8: The Hypocritical Kiss of Betrayal

Our sixth biblical kiss in Luke 22:47-48 tells of a kiss that many of you would have thought of when I said we would look at kissing in the Bible.

This is number 6, the hypocritical kiss of betrayal – (Luke 22:47-48, "And while he (Jesus) yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?") A record of this episode is repeated in Mark 14:44.

I remember a conversation well even though it happened over half a century ago. I stood wide-eyed as my namesake was tentatively dismantling a faulty telephone to repair it.

Noticing his hesitancy, I asked, "Do you know what you're doing, Uncle Lionel?"

He replied, "Not really, but I'm giving it a go. Watch and learn what *not* to do!"

Some of perhaps the best admonition given anywhere in Scripture is found in Hebrews 12:2 which says to look to Jesus as our example rather than people, especially people like Judas.

My uncle Lionel did successfully repair the telephone and I learned from his bravado. So when I read of Judas, I need to just "Watch and learn what *not* to do", and remind myself to keep my focus on Jesusand "Watch and learn what to do."

When Judas kissed Jesus that night in the Garden he not only was identifying Him as the one to arrest, but he was also acting as though he had affection for Jesus by doing so.

This blatant attempt at innocence was not missed by Jesus. He called Judas on it by asking, "Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Spurgeon tells of a diabolical invention called the "Virgin's kiss" once used by the fathers of the Inquisition.

The victim was pushed forward to kiss the mechanical image, then its arms enclosed him in a deadly embrace, piercing his body with a hundred hidden

knives.

In 2 Samuel 20 we read of the betrayal by Joab who said to Amasa, “How are you, my brother?”

Verse nine says, “Then Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.” Verse ten describes in graphic detail how this kiss was used as an opportunity for Joab to kill Amasa with a hidden dagger.

Proverbs 27:6 says, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful”.

I remember overhearing my mother warning my younger brother with these words: “Never let a fool kiss you and never let a kiss fool you.”

Satan will use every trick he can to deceive us, even the false love of an enemy.

Beware of wolves in sheep’s clothing, (Matthew 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves").

What a contrast to Proverbs 24:26, “Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer. Or as the NIV renders it, An honest answer is like a kiss on the

lips."

An aside spoken by Richard III (the Duke of Gloucester) in William Shakespeare's drama 'King Henry VI. Part III. Act V. Scene 7' is, "To say the truth, so Judas kiss'd his Master, And cried, 'All hail,' whereas he meant all harm."

Betrayal is a difficult act to accept.

Benedict Arnold was a General during the American Revolutionary War who originally fought for the American Continental Army but later became disillusioned and defected to the British Army.

Arnold betrayed his friend, George Washington, and his country and as a result, many lives were lost.

His name has been remembered in infamy since that time.

At the beginning of the war he was touted as a National Hero, but no matter how many noble deeds he accomplished during his life, he will always be remembered as a traitor to his country.

Ironically, the name Benedict means 'blessed'.

In the west of England, the people took the old custom of driving out winter and gave it a new meaning.

A jack-o-lantern figure was dragged through the streets on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It was then shot to pieces. They called the figure Judas.

What parent now-a-days would choose to name a child Judas?

Many years ago in France, name-sensitive Napoleon decreed a law against outlandish names including the name Judas.

Many other countries have followed suit. For example in New Zealand the name *Lucifer*, Latin for "light bearer, is banned.

In America, feelings against the name Judas ran so strong that it wasn't until the past decade that its Hebrew version *Judah* entered the Top 1000 for the first time in the US, while short form Jude took off in the last ten years thanks to an actor by the name of Jude Law.

In the most recent year counted, in the USA there were over 2000 boys named Jude and over 1000 named Judah but only an unlucky thirteen called Judas.

Jesus said in the 21st verse of Matthew chapter 26, “Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.”

A little child wrote, “Jesus had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.”

What went wrong with this seemingly devoted servant? Could we unknowingly be on a similar path?

S. D. Gordon in *The Bent-Knee Time* wrote, ‘It is startling to think that Satan can actually come into the heart of a man in such close touch with Jesus as Judas was. And more-he is cunningly trying to do it today. Yet he can get in only through a door opened from the inside. “Every man controls the door of his own life.” Satan can’t get in without our help.’

How do we treat the Judases among us?

Andreas Bodenstein, named Karlstadt after his birthplace, was a leading light on the faculty of the University of Wittenberg. In fact, he conferred on Luther his doctor’s hood.

Karlstadt emerged as a radical in the Reformation.

In 1521 he held the first Protestant communion service-without vestments for the clergy, and with both bread and wine served to the laity.

The next day he announced his engagement, a stunning move in an age of celibate ministers.

He soon opposed Luther as a proponent of compromise.

In 1524 Luther issued a tract that attacked Karlstadt's extreme ideas as the work of a new "Judas."

Karlstadt had to flee Wittenberg, and he denounced Luther as twice a papist and a cousin of Antichrist.

But the next year on Luther's wedding night, at eleven o'clock when all the wedding guests had departed, Karlstadt showed up at his door, fleeing the Peasants' War and asking for shelter. Luther took him in.

Jim Sandell asks, "How much are your friends worth?

Recently, a German woman who filled up [her car with petrol] discovered she did not have enough money to pay the bill. She asked her friend to stay behind

as a human deposit while she went to withdraw some extra cash.

A police spokesman in the southern German town of Muenchberg said, 'Unfortunately, the woman did not return.'

Two hours after the 20-year-old driver left, the station called police who questioned the stranded 'deposit' before releasing her. Police are investigating the driver on suspicion of fraud."

Sophocles (c496-406 BC) wrote, "What can wound more deeply than a false friend?"

Job 6:27 (NIV) "You would even cast lots for the fatherless and barter away your friend."

Judas is a model for some who would choose (or unintentionally due to a lack of surrender) betray the one they love the most.

Alternatively, we can choose Jesus as our model for living. It's up to us to choose: Who will it be? Judas or Jesus.

Chapter 9: The Unfaithful Kiss of False Worship

And number seven is the unfaithful kiss of false worship. (Job 31:26-28, "If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness; And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand: This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above").

A tendency has long existed among mankind to exalt the sun and even to worship it.

This kissing of the hand toward the sun was part of an ancient ritual of worship to the sun.

Job had never done such and he points out that to do so is an iniquity to be punished because it is a denial of the God who created it.

The Law of Moses required the death penalty for one who would worship the sun (Deuteronomy 17:2-7, "If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of

the Lord thy God, in transgressing his covenant, And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and inquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel:"

"Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die."

"At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.").

Chapter 10: The Wooing Kiss of Adultery

Number eight may be found in Proverbs 7.

Proverbs 7:13-19 warns about the kisses of an adulteress or prostitute, "And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon."

"Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an

ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life."

Chapter 11: The Affectionate Kiss of Kinship

Number nine is the affectionate kiss of kinship as found in places like 1 Samuel 20 and 2 Samuel 14.

An anonymous writer penned these words:

"I am your baby, please touch me! Not just when you feed me and diaper me but stroke my legs, my arms, my back, my head. Hold me close in tenderness that says, 'I love you.'

I am your teenager, please touch me! I need to feel a fond love coming through your hands, your arms; I need to see it in your eyes, hear it in your voice, even when we disagree. Some of me is still a child – please touch me!

I am a child with a family of my own, Please put your arms around me Mother, Father, when my heart aches with heartaches you have known. Now that I am a parent, I see you differently and love you more. When you embrace your grandchildren - don't forget me!

I am your aging parent, please touch me! The way my mother did when I was young. My hair is coarse

and grey but please stroke it. My hand is wrinkled but hold it. Embrace my tiring body. I need your strength - please touch me! “

In a South American orphanage, Rene Spitz observed and recorded what happened to 97 children who were deprived of emotional and physical contact with others.

Because of a lack of funds, there was not enough staff to adequately care for these children, ages 3 months to 3 years old.

Nurses changed diapers and fed and bathed the children. But there was little time to hold, cuddle, kiss, and talk to them as a mother would. After three months many of them showed signs of abnormality.

Besides a loss of appetite and being unable to sleep well, many of the children lay with a vacant expression in their eyes. After five months, serious deterioration set in.

They lay whimpering, with troubled and twisted faces. Often, when a doctor or nurse would pick up an infant, it would scream in terror.

Twenty-seven, almost one third, of the children

died the first year, but not from lack of food or health care. They died of a lack of touch, kisses and emotional nurture.

Because of this, seven more died the second year. Only twenty one of the 97 survived with most suffering serious psychological damage.

Jesus recognised this need: (Mark 5:21- 24, 35-43, "And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. …"

"While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother

of James. And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn."

"But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.")

So far the Bible has opened to us the figurative kiss of God's attributes, the faithful kiss of salvation, the family kiss of the brethren, the farewell kiss of separation, the foolish kiss of idolatry, the hypocritical kiss of betrayal, the unfaithful kiss of false worship, the wooing kiss of adultery, the affectionate kiss of kinship and now number ten, the forgiving kiss of compassion.

Chapter 12: The Forgiving kiss of Compassion.

(Luke 15:20) And he (that's the prodigal son) arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Here we have our final example — what a beautiful picture of the love of God.

The prodigal expected rebuke and reprisals — at least an "I told you so." Instead he was welcomed with open arms and joy.

Robert Farrar Capon describes it this way: "[The father] wasn't afraid of giving the prodigal son a kiss instead of a lecture, [or giving] a party instead of probation."

God stands ready to accept our repentance and faith right now.

Even though you might feel like you're a great way off, God is willing and waiting to run toward you

and restore you to Himself.

Kisses can mean a lot of different things. As we looked at these examples of Bible kisses we saw that a kiss can be an affectionate sign of love or a hypocritical sign of betrayal. But an honourable kiss to God can bring many blessings and great benefits.Kissing reveals something special about God's character. Psalm 85:10 ("Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.") uses a beautiful metaphor of God's righteousness and peace kissing each other. Throughout psalm 85, God does all the loving.

The parable of the Prodigal Son shows God's love in a kiss.

Ernest Hemmingway, in one of his short stories, refers to a Madrid anecdote about a father who decides to reconcile with his son.

Years before, the boy had run away to madrid, and the father, like King David, had cut off all contact with his son.

The father takes out this ad in a Madrid newspaper: "Paco, meet me at Hotel Montana noon, Tuesday. All is forgiven, Papa."

“Paco” is a common name in Spain, and when the father went to the square, he found eight hundred young men named Paco waiting for their fathers.

James S. Hewett tells us that Dwight Moody’s father died when Dwight was only four.

A month later Mrs. Moody gave birth to twins; she now had nine mouths to feed and no income.

Merciless creditors dogged the widow, claiming everything they could get their hands on.

As if Mrs. Moody didn’t have enough troubles, her eldest boy later ran away from home.

Certain that her son would return, Mrs. Moody placed a light for him in the window each night.

Young Dwight was inspired by her faith and prayers.

He wrote: “I can remember how eagerly she used to look for tidings of that boy; how she used to send us to the post office to see if there was a letter from him — some night when the wind was very high, and the house would tremble at every gust, the voice of my mother was raised in prayer for that wanderer.”

Her prayers were answered. Her prodigal son did eventually return.

Dwight remembered: "While my mother was sitting at the door, a stranger was seen coming toward the house, and when he came to the door he stopped.

My mother didn't know her boy. He stood there with folded arms and a great beard flowing down his breast, his tears trickling down his face.

When my mother saw those tears she cried, 'Oh, it's my lost son!' and entreated him to come in.

But he stood still! 'No mother,' he answered, 'I will not come in until I hear first that you have forgiven me.'"

Mrs. Moody was only too willing to forgive. She rushed to the door, threw her arms around him, and there the prodigal found forgiveness.

Rev. W. O. Taylor wrote the following summary of the Prodigal Son story (later modified by Robert Woodman:

The Prodigal — Feeling frightfully famished

Feeling footloose, fancy-free and frisky, this feather-brained fellow finagled his fond father into forking over his fortune.

Forthwith, he fled for foreign fields and frittered his farthings feasting fabulously with fair-weather friends. Finally, fleeced by those folly filled fellows and facing famine, he found himself a feed flinger in a filthy farm-lot. He fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from fodder fragments.

"Fooey! My father's flunkies fare far fancier," the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, frankly facing fact.

Frustrated from failure and filled with forebodings, he fled for his family. Falling at his father's feet, he floundered forlornly. "Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited further family favors . . ."

But the faithful father, forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged his flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

But the fugitive's fault finding frater , faithfully farming his father's fields for free, frowned at this fickle

forgiveness of former falderal. His fury flashed, but fussing was futile.

His foresighted father figured, “Such filial fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivities? The fugitive is found!

Unfurl the flags! With fanfare flaring, let fun, frolic and frivolity flow freely, former failures forgotten and folly forsaken. Forgiveness forms a firm foundation for future fortitude.”

Luke 15:20 shows the outcome: “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him”.

The son never had to beg for forgiveness or even for food. The kiss told him he was loved again. This is how God wants to welcome us.

The Puritans called these experiences “God’s Kisses,” when events in our lives give us an overwhelming sense that God cares for us

In 1882 George Matheson wrote these words: O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean

depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in they sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow thru~ the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

Chapter 13: Kissing God

We can kiss God as well. Jesus was kissed twice (that we know of), once as a sign of devotion by a former prostitute and once as a sign of betrayal by a former disciple.

Psalm 2:12 says we should kiss the Son ("Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him".)

This is all about giving our allegiance to Jesus. We may not appreciate the wrath part, but God's affection is not the only option.

My wife once teasingly asked how much I loved her, and I responded by saying, "More than yesterday and less than tomorrow".

God is like that. Nay, rather, God is better than that!

Every time we sincerely worship God it is like a kiss on God's cheek or hand.

Job recognised this when he referred to kissing the hand as an act of worship. (Job 31:27, “And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:”)

Ralph Waldo Emerson, at a meeting of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College once said, “Religious worship is the most important single function of the life of any people”..

Appendix 1: *Kisses in the Bible* Summary

1. Human Attachment

A. Tears mingled with kisses.

(i) The woman at Simon's feast (Luke 7:37-38, "And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment").

(ii) Jacob, on meeting his desired bride. (Genesis 29:11, "And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.")

(iii) Joseph, seeing his long-lost brother Benjamin. (Genesis 45:14, "And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.")

(iv) Joseph and death of his father. (Genesis

50:1, “And Joseph fell upon his father’s face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.”)

(v) Naomi, leaving her daughters-in-law. (Ruth 1:9, “The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.”)

(vi) David and Jonathan. (1 Samuel 20:41, “And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.”)

B. Blessings mingled with kisses.

(i) Laban blessing grandchildren. (Genesis 31:55, “And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.”)

(ii) David and Barzillai. (2 Samuel 19:39, “And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.”)

2. Family.

(a) Fathers and sons.

(i) Isaac and Jacob. (Genesis 27:26-27, "And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed:")

(ii) Jacob (Israel) and Joseph. (Genesis 48:10-12, "Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them. And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath showed me also thy seed. And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.")

(iii) Moses and father-in-law. (Exodus 18:7, "And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent.")

(iv) David reconciles with Absalom. (2 Samuel 14:33, "So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the

king: and the king kissed Absalom.")

(v) Elisha's desire to kiss parents good-bye. (1 Kings 19:20, "And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?")

(b) Grandchildren.

(i) Laban. (Genesis 31:27-29, 55) "Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp? And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing. It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. … And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.")

(c) Siblings.

(i) Jacob and Esau. (Genesis 33:2-6, "And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah

and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost. And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept. And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant. Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves.")

(ii) Joseph and Benjamin and rest of the brothers. (Genesis 45:14-15, "And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.")

(iii) Aaron meeting Moses on mountain. (Exodus 4:27. "And the Lord said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him.")

(d) Potential relatives.

(i) Jacob and Laban. (Genesis 29:13-14, "And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced

him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month.")

4. Faithful friends.

(i) David and Jonathan. (1 Samuel 20:41, "And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded [wept more].")

(ii) David and Barzillai. (2 Samuel 19:39, "And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.")

5. Fake friends.

(i) Judas and Jesus. (Matthew 26:48-49, "Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.")

(ii) Absalom's deviousness. (2 Samuel 15:5-6,

"And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel."

(iii) Joab greeting Amasa - and killing him. (2 Samuel 20:9-10, "And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.")

(iv) Enemies who multiply kisses. (Proverbs 27:6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.")

(v) Kisses compared to honest answers. (Proverbs 24:26, "Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.")

[NIV: "An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips."]

5. Lovers

(i) Jacob and Rachel (First meeting, Genesis 29:11, "And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.")

(ii) Solomon and his beloved (Song of Songs 1:2; 8:1, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine. … O that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! when I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; yea, I should not be despised.")

6. Adultery

(i) Prostitute or adulteress in Proverbs. (Proverbs 7:9-23, "In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)"

"So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I

have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him."

"He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.")

7. Idolatry

(i) Elijah doesn't kiss idols of Baal. (1 Kings 19:18, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.")

(ii) Job doesn't kiss idols. (Job 31:27, "And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:")

(iii) Kissing calf idols. (Hosea 13:2) "And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves."

8. Spiritual

(i). Samuel kisses Saul, whom he anointed as king. (1 Samuel 10:1, "Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?")

(ii). Kissing the Son [of God]. (Psalm 2:12, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.")

(iii). Righteousness and peace kiss. (Psalm 85:10, "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.")

Appendix 2: *Kisses in the Bible* Trivia

(Adapted and expanded from J Stephen Lang, *The Complete Book of Bible Trivia*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1988)

Answers on page 81

1. What two hostile brothers met and kissed each other, weeping all the way? Clue: Genesis 33:4

2. What soldier murdered a man while kissing him? Clue: 2 Samuel 20:9-10

3. What prophet talked about kissing calves? Clue: Hosea 13:2

4. Who kissed Barzillai, an old man who had provided supplies for the army? Clue: 2 Samuel 19:39

5. Who kissed Absalom after his two years in exile? Clue: 2 Samuel 14:33

6. Who poured oil on Saul's head and kissed him? Clue: 1 Samuel 10:1

7. What aged father kissed one son, mistaking him for the other? Clue: Genesis 27:27

8. Who met Moses in the wilderness and kissed him? Clue: Exodus 18:5, 7

9. When Jacob died, who wept over him and kissed him? Clue: Genesis 50:1

10. What bereaved woman kissed her daughters-in-law good-bye as she left to return to her own country? Clue: Ruth 1:9

11. What rebel was so magnetic in personality that the men of Israel couldn't help kissing him? Clue: 2 Samuel 15:5-6

12. Who kissed David when he was fleeing from Saul? Clue: 1 Samuel 20:41

13. Who met Moses by the mount of God and kissed him? Clue: Exodus 4:27

14. Who kissed his brothers in a tearful family reunion? Clue: Genesis 45:15

15. Who kissed and blessed Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's sons? Clue: Genesis 48:10, 20

16. Who kissed his nephew the first time they met? Clue: Genesis 29:13

17. Who returned home after making peace with his son-in-law and kissing his grandchildren good-bye? Clue: Genesis 31:55

18. Who said, “Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine”? Clue: Song of Solomon 1:2

19. What book says, “Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer”, and what does it mean? Clue: Proverbs 24:26

20. Who had a tearful farewell, with many kisses, at the city of Miletus? Clue: Acts 20:36-38

21. Who said, “Greet with a kiss of charity”? Clue: 1 Peter 5:14

22. According to Proverbs, whose kisses are deceitful? Clue: Proverbs 27:6

23. Where was Jesus when the sinful woman kissed his feet and anointed him? Clue: Luke 7:36-43

24. Which epistles end with Paul’s admonition

to greet fellow Christians with a “holy kiss”? (No clue given for this question)

25. Who gives a kiss described as lustful? Clue: Proverbs 7:9-23

26. Who kissed Jesus as a supposed sign of friendship? Clue: Matthew 26:48

27. Who kissed the prodigal son? Clue: Luke 15:20

28. Who said, “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry”? Clue: Psalm 2:12, Acts 4:25

29. Who kissed Rachel almost as soon as he met her? Clue: Genesis 29:11

30. What prophet protested men kissing the image of Baal? Clue: 1 Kings 19:18

31. To whom did Job speak about kissing the hand as an act of homage? Clue: Job 31:27

Answers

1. Jacob and Esau (Genesis 33:4, “And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.”)

2. Joab (2 Samuel 20:9-10, “And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab’s hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.”)

3. Hosea, who was referring to calf idols (Hosea 13:2, “And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.”)

4. David (2 Samuel 19:39, “And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he

returned unto his own place.")

5. David (2 Samuel 14:33, "So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.")

6. Samuel (1 Samuel 10:1, "Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?")

7. Isaac, who kissed Jacob instead of Esau (Genesis 27:27) "And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed")

8. Jethro, his father-in-law (Exodus 18:5, 7, "And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: … And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent.")

9. Joseph (Genesis 50:1, “And Joseph fell upon his father’s face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.”)

10. Naomi (Ruth 1:9, “The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.”)

11. Absalom (2 Samuel 15:5-6, “And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. 6) And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.”)

12. Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:41, “And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.”)13. Aaron (Exodus 4:27, “And the Lord said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him.”)

14. Joseph (Genesis 45:15, “Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.”)

15. Jacob (Genesis 48:10, 20) "Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them. … And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.")

16. Laban, Jacob's uncle and future father-in-law (Genesis 29:13, "And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things.")

17. Laban (Genesis 31:55, "And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.")

18. Solomon's beloved (Song of Songs 1:2, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.")

19. Proverbs (24:26, "Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer". The meaning is best understood from modern translations – NIV, "An honest

answer is like a kiss on the lips.")

20. Paul (Acts 20:36-38, "And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.")

21. (1 Peter 5:14, "Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.")

22. An enemy's (Proverbs 27:6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.")

23. The home of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36-43) "And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when

the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.")

24. Romans,1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians and 1 Thessalonians. (Romans 16:16, "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."; 1 Corinthians 16:20, "All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss."; 2 Corinthians 13:12, "Greet one another with an holy kiss."; 1 Thessalonians 5:26, "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.")

25. An adulterer with the attire of an harlot (Proverbs 7:9-23, "In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her

house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.")

26. Judas (Matthew 26:48, "Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.")

27. His father (Luke 15:20, "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran,

and fell on his neck, and kissed him.")

28. King David (Psalm 2:12, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.") The author of this Psalm is unnamed, however Acts 4:25 Says it was David. (Acts 4:24-26, "When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25) You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'")

29. Jacob (Genesis 29:11, "And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.")

30. Elijah (1 Kings 19:18, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.")

31. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar (Job 31:27, "And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:")

Appendix 3: *Kisses in the Bible* Concordance

Genesis 27:26-27, "And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. 27, And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed:"

Genesis 29:11, "And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept."

Genesis 29:13, "And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things."

Genesis 31:28, "And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing."

Genesis 31:55, "And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and

blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place."

Genesis 33:4, "And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept."

Genesis 45:15, "Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him."

Genesis 48:10, "Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them."

Genesis 50:1, "And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him."

Exodus 4:27, "And the Lord said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him."

Exodus 18:7, "And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent."

Ruth 1:9, "The Lord grant you that ye may find

rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept."

Ruth 1:14, "And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her."

1 Samuel 10:1, "Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?"

1 Samuel 20:41, "And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded."

2 Samuel 14:33, "So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom."

2 Samuel 15:5, "And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him."

2 Samuel 19:39, "And all the people went over

Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place."

2 Samuel 20:9, "And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him."

1 Kings 19:18, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him."

1 Kings 19:20, "And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?"

Job 31:27, "And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:"

Psalm 2:12, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

Psalm 85:10, "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

Proverbs 7:13, "So she caught him, and kissed

him, and with an impudent face said unto him,"

Proverbs 24:26, "Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer."

Song of Songs 1:2, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine."

Song of Songs 8:1, "O that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! when I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; yea, I should not be despised."

Hosea 13:2, "And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves."

Matthew 26:48-49, "Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. 49, And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him."

Mark 14:44-45, "And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely. 45, And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to

him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him."Luke 7:38, "And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment."

Luke 7:45, "Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet."

Luke 15:20, "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

Luke 22:47-48, "And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. 48, But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?"

Acts 20:37, "And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,"

Romans 16:16, "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."

1 Corinthians 16:20, "All the brethren greet you.

Greet ye one another with an holy kiss."

2 Corinthians 13:12, "Greet one another with an holy kiss."

1 Thessalonians 5:26, "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss."

1 Peter 5:14, "Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen."